

# Columbia Missourian

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Good Morning! It's Friday, June 27, 1980

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## Mall gets conditional rezoning

By Mike Brennan, Beth Mollard  
and Alan Gathright  
Missourian staff writers

Although bloodied by environmentalists and downtown business interests, May Co. won the fight Thursday night to establish a regional shopping center on the Perry Phillips property southwest of Columbia.

The Boone County Planning and Zoning Commission voted 7-1 for conditional rezoning of the 123-acre (49.2-hectare) tract located a mile (1.6 kilometers) to the northeast from Rock Bridge State Park. Development of a mall in close proximity to the park has concerned both state officials and environmentalists.

Bill Frech, a member of the commission and the Boone County Court, made the motion to give approval to the mall site, conditional upon coming to a satisfactory agreement with the May Co. on 23 areas of concern which had been prepared by the county planning department prior to the meeting.

After comments from various commission members, the final vote was taken and only commission chairman Louis Tritschler dissented.

Tritschler, when asked after the meeting why he dissented, said, "I think the shopping center should go where there are streets and sewers already. I'm not worried about the environmental problems. I think 200 houses would create more pollution than the mall."

If anyone expected that a week's delay would discourage opponents of the May Co. proposal, they were wrong. About 100 people showed up to get the hearing they were denied because of time limits last week.

The meeting was initially held in the Boone County Court chambers, because the council chambers had been committed to a Columbia Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. But after the city meeting drew to a close, the standing room only audience poured out of the tiny room into the spacious council room.

Project Manager Art Spellmeyer, when

asked about the problems raised by environmentalists said after the meeting, "We have had our concept approved and have determined what the particular problems are. But you must remember that the process is in three phases: planning, development and construction."

"The first phase we set up concepts and proceed. We set up the design process. We have made ourselves extremely sensitive to the area, to the environmental problems and the protection of downtown. We have done what is necessary to answer any questions, and the conditions attached shouldn't prevent us from moving in an expeditious manner."

But during the meeting, opposition centered on several concerns.

"Would I want my daughter to go to Stephens if there are a half dozen X-rated movies on Broadway? I don't think we can afford to allow the possibility of our downtown base to erode," said Michael Menser, owner of Buchroeder's jewelry store. He said another alternative was available: the General Growth mall proposal already approved by the City Council.

Jon Gerardi, identifying himself as a former member of the Columbia Planning and Zoning Commission, painted a dramatic picture of the appearance of discount stores, gas stations, grocery stores and quick shops as a result of mall approval. He claimed extra police and fire service would cost the county hundreds of thousands of dollars in extra expenditures.

"No one could have told two years ago the city would be leaping 1½ miles (2.4 kilometers) from its borders," said Marti Kardinal, representing the Sierra Club. She went on to suggest ways to limit the impact of growth and urged the Planning and Zoning Commission to request an urban impact analysis.

Besides the Sierra Club, several other groups and individuals urged the commission to request an urban impact analysis.

When asked after the meeting why the com-

mission didn't request an urban impact analysis, Bill Frech commission member and presiding judge of the County Court said, "The eight commissioners would know the situation better than state experts would."

"I feel that despite the fact it would add to our knowledge it is not worth the investment of time and money to come up with one," he said.

Muriel Crane and her daughter Susan came to the meeting to protest the mall's encroachment on their 325-acre (130-hectare) farm, which lies a 1,000 feet (303 meters) south of the site.

Ms. Crane said she was concerned about the affect sewage effluent from the mall would have upon Gans Creek, which flows through their property.

Their livestock often depends upon the creek for drinking water, she said. "Now I'm no expert in this area, but I don't like the sound of the sewage treatment plant pumping 40,000 gallons (152,000 liters) of sewage down our creek daily."

"It is the small business and family farm that has made this country strong," she concluded. "Give us a chance to keep it that way."

Reflecting after the commission's decision, Mrs. Crane said she felt the commission made up its mind after the May Co. presentation last week.

"I'm not particularly let down, because I felt the Planning and Zoning Commission had their minds made up before they heard the other side," she said.

Her daughter was more blunt about the outcome.

"Well, I want to farm, but if this goes in and development goes in, I don't want to stay."

But the commission ignored the dissenters' pleas and voted to hold a study session Wednesday at 7:30 to resolve remaining differences with the May Co. The issue will then be turned over to the County Court for its final decision at a special meeting to be held July 21 at 7:30 p.m.



Robert McD Parker

University student Tim Playl said he "didn't want to sacrifice a park for a mall" and urged the commission to re-

quest that an urban impact study be done to see what effect the mall would have on nearby Rock Bridge State Park.

## Tax cut plan: Pie in the sky or dream come true?

By J. Russell King  
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — You can have your cake and eat it too — at least that's the theory of many who support unprecedented massive cuts in federal income taxes, including several Missouri politicians.

But, if you cut taxes drastically, you're going to have to cut out a lot of federal spending programs: Spending for health, education, defense, aid to the poor — right?

And if you cut taxes without cutting spending, you'll create even larger deficits in the federal budget — right?

And if you cut taxes, that puts more money in the hands of consumers; they'll spend it and further fuel inflation — right?

Wrong, say believers in the newly popular "supply-side" theory of economics, including Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., and Sen. William Roth, R-Del., whose tax cut plan (first introduced two years ago) would slash income tax rates by 33 percent over a three-year period.

In an election year, supporting big tax cuts is good politics — no voter likes to pay taxes. And since Kemp-Roth theorists do not call for similar massive cuts in federal expenditures, such candidates avoid displeasing those voters who think a high level of government spending is

### Insight

justified.

Not surprisingly, the GOP used Kemp-Roth as a major congressional campaign issue in 1978, and all three of Missouri's Republicans in Congress have supported the tax-cut plan.

An aide to Sen. John Danforth says he would still favor Kemp-Roth, especially in its latest version, which includes a provision putting some limit on federal spending as a percentage of Gross National Product. The state's two GOP congressmen, Rep. Gene Taylor, R-Sarcoux,

and Rep. Thomas Coleman, R-Kansas City, also maintain their support of the Kemp-Roth proposal, according to spokesmen in their Washington offices. But both share the traditional Republican concern with the idea of a balanced budget and would want to cut back on federal spending at the same time taxes are cut.

That's what distinguishes a hard-core Kemp-Roth supporter from the standard Republican position that both taxes and spending should be cut, to maintain a balanced budget and reduce the size and reach of the federal government.

That's also what distinguishes Kemp-Roth supporters from the majority of traditional

economists, who think the theory behind Kemp-Roth is, at best, risky — and, at worst, disastrous.

The theory is that current tax rates are so high, they discourage savings, investment and productivity. By putting more money back in the hands of corporations and individuals with high incomes, a tax cut would spur private spending on new, more efficient industrial equipment, and higher consumer spending would support a more active business economy.

Unemployed workers would be brought back into a more prosperous economy, everyone

(See TAX-CUT, Page 10A)

## University renews ties with China

By Wayne Byard  
Missourian staff writer

The two stone lions that sit in the archway between Walter Williams and Neff halls represent the close ties the University once enjoyed with mainland China. These ties were renewed Thursday when the University admitted the first student from the mainland since the Chinese revolution.

Xu Shimin, 41, will begin studying at the University's School of Journalism on July 7. He is the editor of the English-language edition of "China Reconstructs," a Peking-based publication.

Shimin is the first journalist to study outside of the People's Republic of China since the revolution. The School of Journalism last graduated a student from what is now the People's Republic of China in 1948.

Although more than 1,200 students from the People's Republic now study in the United States, Shimin will be the first to study journalism.

His living expenses are being paid by a \$4,000 grant from Reader's Digest, his academic expenses are being paid by the school's endowment fund, and his travel expenses are being paid by the Chinese government.

For the past month, Shimin has been staying in California with some American friends he met while serving as a tour guide and interpreter.

Shimin's wife, Zheng Peidi, is now applying for permission to study in Missouri and hopes to join her husband in August. She is a television personality who teaches English to more than 1 million students on the Chinese national television network.

They are expected to be joined in August by five more journalists from the People's Republic. The journalists will be known as Edgar Snow Fellows. Snow, a University graduate, was the first American journalist to chronicle Mao Zedong's rise to power.

All six journalists hope to complete a two-year Master of Arts program at the School of Journalism. They were selected by a series of compet-



UPI telephoto

Xu Shimin, the first student from the People's Republic of China to enter the University since 1948, will begin graduate work in the School of Journalism.

itive exams given to print and broadcast journalists throughout China.

The arrival of Shimin follows the return from China of Dean Roy Fisher of the journalism school.

Fisher spent two weeks in China negotiating with Chinese officials and presenting a dozen lectures to Chinese journalists. Fisher said the Chinese are anxious to establish an

exchange program with the journalism school.

This program would include both faculty members and students. The students would study at Chinese universities and aid in the editing of English-language publications. The faculty members would teach in China

(See CHINESE, Page 12A)

## Court intends to sell home bonds

By Leslie Doolittle and Alan Cohen  
Missourian staff writers

Some Boone County families may yet be saved from high interest rates and lack of money in the home-buying market.

The County Court Thursday unanimously passed a resolution stating its intentions of issuing and selling Home Mortgage Revenue Bonds. The resolution said the value of the bonds is "presently estimated to be about \$20 million."

The court also set a hearing Tuesday to decide on an underwriter for the bonds.

Money from the sale of the bonds would be given to a trustee bank to distribute to other lending institutions in the area. The institutions would then lend the money at a lower than market

interest rate to families with incomes less than \$25,000 for buying homes costing less than \$50,000.

The possibility of selling the bonds with a tax-exempt status came from a bill passed in the state legislature but which has not yet gone into effect.

Congress has issued a resolution saying counties which have not taken some official action by July 2 cannot issue tax-exempt bonds, and no bonds could be issued later than Nov. 1.

Northern District Judge Dick Farmer said the County Court's action, coming just days before the July 2 deadline, is a means of keeping the option open. It doesn't necessarily mean that the county is going to go through with the sale.

If the court does take action, it will have to do so after Aug. 13, when the state bill takes effect, and before Nov.

1, the federal government's deadline.

Farmer, who had said he was "generally in favor" of the bonds, said after the meeting that the court did not rush into the resolution. "We did what we were ready to do, which is setting time to hear from bonding houses (underwriters)," he said.

Farmer said if the court is satisfied with an underwriter, it will proceed with a feasibility study to see if the bonds are needed.

Presiding Judge Eill Frech said the \$20 million is a tentative figure, depending on what the study shows. He also said the bond sale should be taken one step at a time. "Right now I'm content with the resolution," he said.

Bob Black, assistant city manager, said during the meeting the City Council is in favor of the bonds.

## TV: St. Louis base of pot empire

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — A billion-dollar smuggling operation based in St. Louis is monopolizing marijuana trading across the country and could be responsible for as many as six murders, a television station reported Thursday.

KTVI-TV said the smuggling ring, formed in 1976 and known as "The Company" because of its corporation-like structure, is the biggest marijuana operation in the nation, operating 33 planes, several warehouses and its own airport.

The station said reporters Dennis

McCarthy and Matt Meagher conducted a two-month investigation in which they interviewed members of the group.

The reporters said they learned that The Company was formed by a 32-year-old man from Alton, Ill., and a 50-year-old man from Brighton, Ill., who is a former executive with the Olin Corp.

The group bought an airport near Monett, Mo., and used it for shipments direct from South America. The source told KTVI the shipments from Colum-

bia were as large as 50 tons (45 metric tons) a week.

A man interviewed by KTVI was identified as a contract killer who murdered three dealers "who got out of line."

In addition, KTVI said, it was a company plane that crashed July 19, 1978, near Jacksonville, Fla. The station said it was told "The Company executioner" had the plane's engines tampered with and one of two men killed in the crash was believed to have been a police informant.

### Inside today

#### Pope opposes mercy killing

Pope John Paul II Thursday condemned euthanasia, saying suffering is part of "God's saving plan." Page 3A.

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